

SENATE RESOLUTION 98

By Lamar

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. Laura Ferguson Mimms in celebration of Women's History Month in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the month of March was officially designated as Women's History Month in 1987; and

WHEREAS, every March, Women's History Month provides an opportunity to honor the achievements of those women who have paved the way wherein every person has an opportunity to pursue the American dream; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer State is proud to be the home of a number of historic, pioneering women, including the awe-inspiring Dr. Laura Ferguson Mimms, executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Initiative (THEI); and

WHEREAS, a nonprofit organization based in Tennessee, THEI is committed to disrupting systems of harm, creating opportunities for autonomy through education, and advocating for justice-impacted individuals by coordinating associate and bachelor's degree programs in Tennessee prisons, providing pre- and post-release re-entry support, and actively advocating for justice-involved individuals on the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, prior to her current appointment, Dr. Mimms led Strategy & Impact at the Family Center, which focuses on breaking cycles of multi-generational abuse and trauma; she also served in leadership roles at the University of Texas at Austin, the National Center on Time and Learning, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, and charter school organizations; and

WHEREAS, a proud graduate of an HBCU, Dr. Mimms received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and African American Literature from Fisk University; she received an American Montessori Society certification, a Master of Science degree in Education coursework,

a Master of Arts degree in English, and a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Administration from Baylor University and American InterContinental University; and

WHEREAS, an active part of her community, Dr. Mimms serves as president of the Parthenon Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, and as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, her professional accomplishments aside, Dr. Mimms is most grateful for the love and support of her beloved husband, Bernard Henry Mimms, and their cherished family; and

WHEREAS, in saluting Dr. Mimms during Women's History Month, let us remember that when women succeed, America succeeds, as does Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Dr. Laura Ferguson Mimms on her many contributions to the State of Tennessee as we celebrate Women's History Month and the generations of trailblazing women who have built our State and their vital contributions to our country's history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.